GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2080
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2001
SLAUGHTERING OF WILD TIGERS
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Environment Investigation Agency (EIA), a London based NGO blamed the Union Government for wholesale slaughter of India`s wild tigers as reported in the Hindu, New Delhi dated November 24, 2000; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a) Environment Investigating Agency has been monitoring wildlife conservation efforts in this country on a regular basis. During the course it learnt about the initiative launched by the Ministry to establish a specialised unit for combating wildlife crime and preventing illicit trade in wildlife products. Environment Investigating Agency has criticised India because of the delay in setting up the specialised unit. Government of India in the Ministry of Environment & Forestshave authorised C.B.I to investigate and initiate action against wildlife offenders. It has also initiated action to create a cell in the Ministry.

(b) Steps taken by the Government of India are set out in Annexure.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE IN RESPECT OF PART (b) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2080 TO BE ANSWERED OI 2001 REGARDING SLAUGHTERING OF WILD TIGERS.

STEPS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

NATIONAL LEVEL

1. Setting up of a National Coordination Committee to control poaching and illegal trade in wildlife with enforcement agencies like customs, Revenue Intelligence, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Border Security Force, Central Reserves Police, Coast Guards, State Police, Deputy Director, Wildlife Preservation & Scientific Organisation like Zoological and Botanical Survey of India.

2. Training Programs and Workshops have been organised to sensitize the above departments to be proactive in control of trade and smuggling of wildlife products.

3. A special co-ordination committee with Secretary (E&F), Special Secretary (Home), Director, CBI and representative of the Chairman, central Board of Excise & Customs has been created to ensure better co-ordination in the efforts to curb smuggling of wildlife products.

4. Central assistance is being provided to State Governments to strengthen the protectioninfrastructure including armed squads, vehicles, communication network and co-ordination between the Park Managers.

5. Schemes for awards and rewards for outstanding performance and acts of valor has been introduced to encourage detection and reporting.

6. The State Government have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling.

7. Launching of public awareness programme to involve Non-Governmental Organisations and others for supporting the Government in its efforts towards wildlife conservation.

8. Supporting programmers of Institutions and NGOs in exploring tiger-trade routes and developing a forensic identification reference Manual for tiger parts and products.

9. Funds are being provided to the States Governments for eco-development of the areas to reduce the biotic pressure thereon.

10. Site specific special force in Project Tiger Areas.

11. Special Strike Force all over the Country to control Trade.

12. Creation of wildlife trade control bureau.

INTERNATIONAL LEVEL :

1. Initiated creation of a Forum of Tiger Range Countries, i.e Global Forum for addressing international issues related of tiger conservation.

2. To control transboundary trade and effect mutual cooperation in tiger conservation:-

(i) A protocol has been signed with People`s Republic of China.

(ii) An MOU with his Majesty`s Government of Nepal has been signed.

(iii) Dialogue with Bangladesh has been initiated.

3. Several resolutions at CITES to check illegal trade in Tiger parts and products have been adopted at India`s initiative.

4. The Millennium Tiger Conference was held in March, 1999. The conference declaration suggested several action for conservation of tiger both at national and International level.